

Covers Cost of Colleges for Children of Soldiers Who Died in the Line of Duty

Burlington County – Congressman John Adler today announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs has begun taking applications for The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, which Congress passed and was signed into law last year. The “Fry scholarship” expands the New GI Bill education benefits to cover the full cost of a college education for all of the children of service members who have died on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

“Our military families are truly the unsung heroes of our nation’s freedom,” said Congressman John Adler. “No one is more deserving of our nation’s support than the children whose parents have given their life in military service to our nation.”

The Fry Scholarship

- All children of members of the Armed Forces who have died in the line of duty while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible for 36 months of tuition and fees up to the maximum in-state tuition and as well as a monthly living stipend, and book allowance.
- The VA will begin accepting applications for this benefit tomorrow, May 1, 2010.
- The benefit took effect August 1, 2009, and VA must begin making payments no later than August 1, 2010 with retroactive payments for children enrolled in college from August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010.
- Surviving military children have 15 years to use their benefits, beginning on their 18th birthdays.
- For more information, visit the VA website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-88-442-4551)
- VA estimates 1,500 military children will be eligible for the Fry scholarship in 2010.

The scholarship honors Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry, 28, a Texas native who died in Iraq in 2006 while disarming an explosive. He is survived by three young children.

More than 66,000 veterans live in New Jersey’s Third Congressional District. As such, the Congressman has been a tireless fighter on their behalf. Adler was a strong supporter of the new G.I. Bill to provide returning troops with the promise of a college education and historic investments in veterans’ health care. Due to Congressman Adler’s efforts, more than 1.5 million New Jersey seniors and veterans received a \$250 economic recovery payment.

When news reports exposed the Philadelphia VA Medical Center for mistreating almost 100 veterans, Congressman Adler, a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, immediately called for a congressional investigation. Since June, Congressman Adler participated in two Congressional hearings, and introduced legislation to increase oversight and accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs.